

Message

From: Minter, Douglas [Minter.Douglas@epa.gov]
Sent: 2/21/2020 4:14:12 PM
To: O'Connor, Darcy [oconnor.darcy@epa.gov]; Robinson, Valois [Robinson.Valois@epa.gov]; Bahrman, Sarah [Bahrman.Sarah@epa.gov]
CC: Garcia, Bert [Garcia.Bert@epa.gov]; Arnold, Rick [Arnold.Rick@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Call w/Powertech

Darcy: we will follow up with John to schedule time to further discuss their comments.

Beyond the recruitment of a student intern and a paralegal, I am working with NOWCC to potentially hire a retired PhD geochemist (Dr. Tony Ranalli) as a full time SEE who has considerable geochemical modeling experience as a DOE consultant at uranium mining/milling sites and was on the same team of technical experts with Rick Arnold at USGS for several years. He also was on detail to EPA Region 8 for a few years working on ground water monitoring with Tricia and other projects. He reached out to me late last week expressing his interest in serving as a technical expert within our UIC Section and I think would be a great addition to the Dewey Burdock team.

Douglas

From: O'Connor, Darcy <oconnor.darcy@epa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2020 9:32 PM
To: Minter, Douglas <Minter.Douglas@epa.gov>; Robinson, Valois <Robinson.Valois@epa.gov>; Bahrman, Sarah <Bahrman.Sarah@epa.gov>
Cc: Garcia, Bert <Garcia.Bert@epa.gov>
Subject: Call w/Powertech

I spoke with Blake and John this evening. I shared that our expected time frame for finalizing our permitting actions was the end of summer. I went over some of the activities that the team was going through on this effort including final outreach on tribal consultation, the fact that we have 10+ people working on the various aspects of this project and your work to get additional support to complete the project (such as use of interns to assemble the administrative record), and our continued work to move as quickly as we can while assuring that we address all of the comments and are consistent in the requirements throughout the various documents that are part of this action.

Blake asked if one of the reasons for the delay are around the company's comments on the modeling. I said that I understood they had concerns with the proposed monitoring and had suggested in their comments that we return to the monitoring approach rather than modeling. That elicited a strong response. They said that this was not at all what they suggested in the comments and talked at some length about their expectations on the modeling - which they thought would be done for Dewey and Burdock at the end of the project for a small set of contaminants rather than the modeling that appears to them as continuous modeling for each of the well fields for an undefined suite of chemicals. They were adamant that they did not suggest at any time that EPA go back to the previous permitting construct of post-remediation monitoring. I said that I may have misunderstood the company's position as I've not been fully briefed on the comments. I let them know that I would pass this on to you and request that that you reach out to John for a technical discussion/clarification of their comments as soon as possible.

They want to ensure that you reach out with any questions you may have on their comments and also would like the opportunity to hear how the comments have been addressed. I suggested that we would follow a similar process as we did in the changes to the last round of permits.

They are frustrated, disappointed on the schedule and how it affects the next round of activities on the state front. I asked if they have talked with the state since the discussions several years ago on the timing on the state activities (are they still of the same mindset that all federal activities must be concluded before they will start on the state activities). It

sounds like they have not and are not at this point and time interested in having that discussion with the state. I said we will continue to work on this action, will reach out with questions and continue to move as quickly as we can while ensuring we meet all of our requirements. At the end of the call there was no indication on whether they will elevate their concerns with the schedule, though I imagine it is likely.

Let me know if you have any questions. John is expecting to hear from you so they can clarify their comments on modeling.

Thanks
D

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